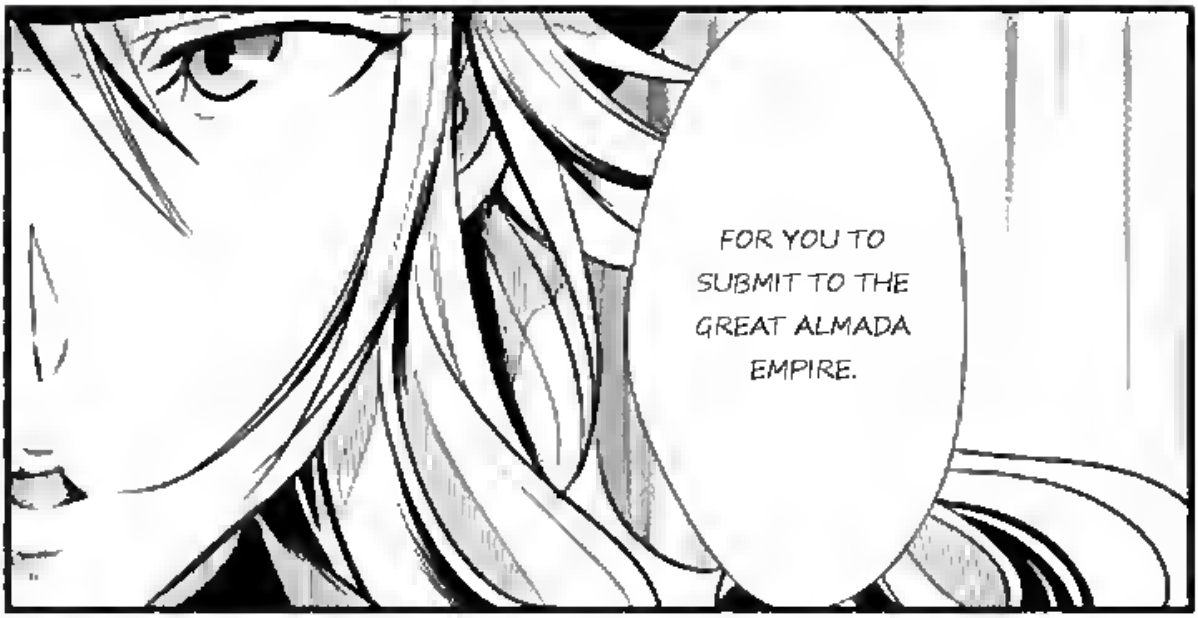
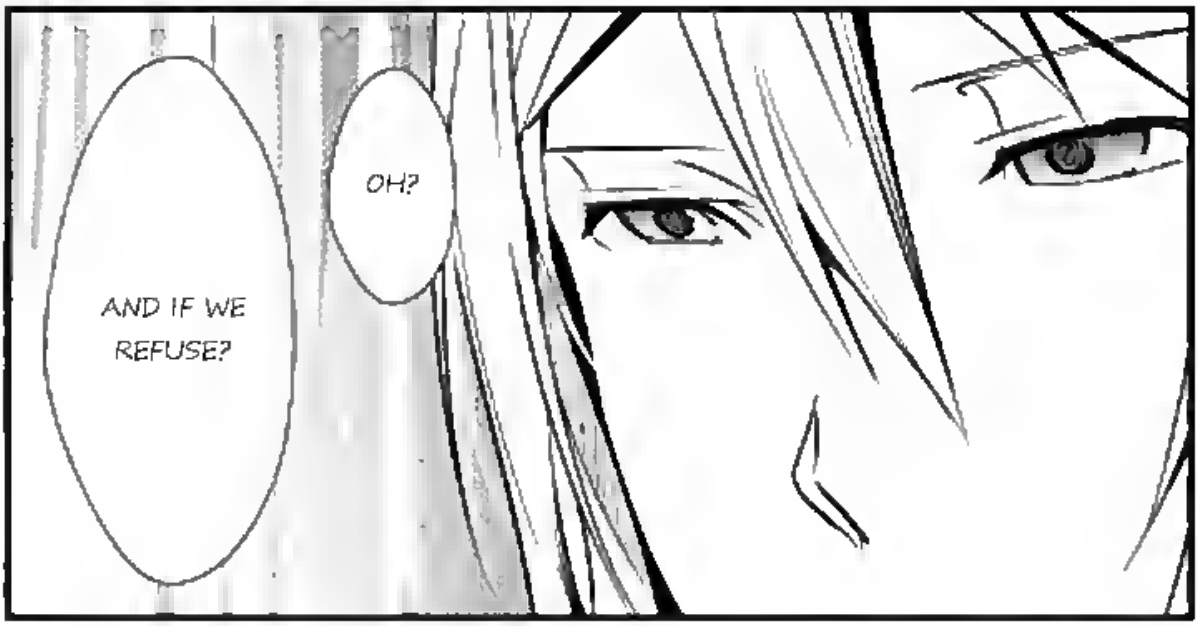
白の皇国物語 第十九回
原作：白沢戌亥 漫画：不まーゆ

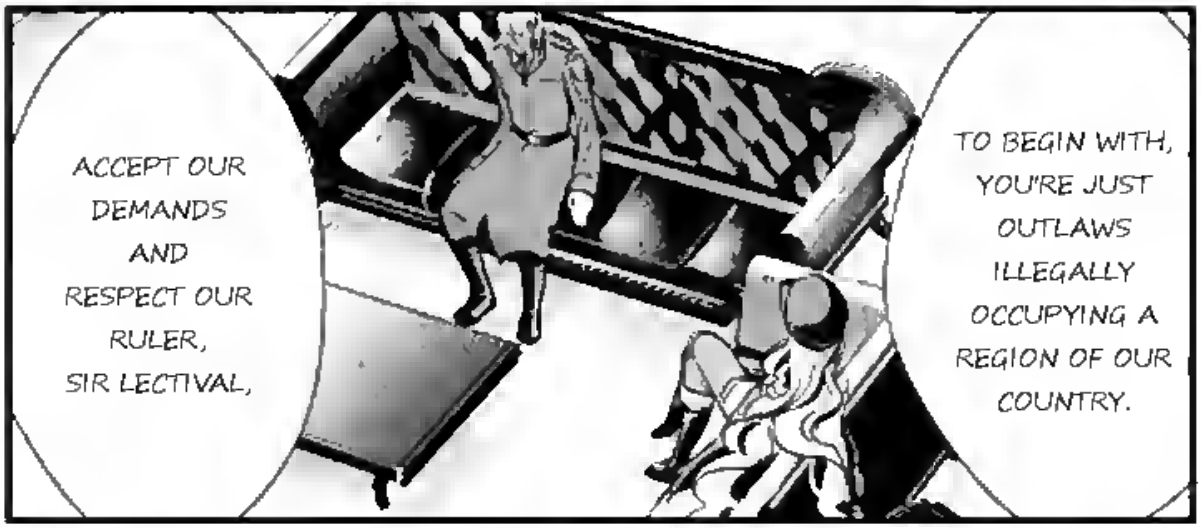
NOW THEN... LET'S GET STRAIGHT TO IT.

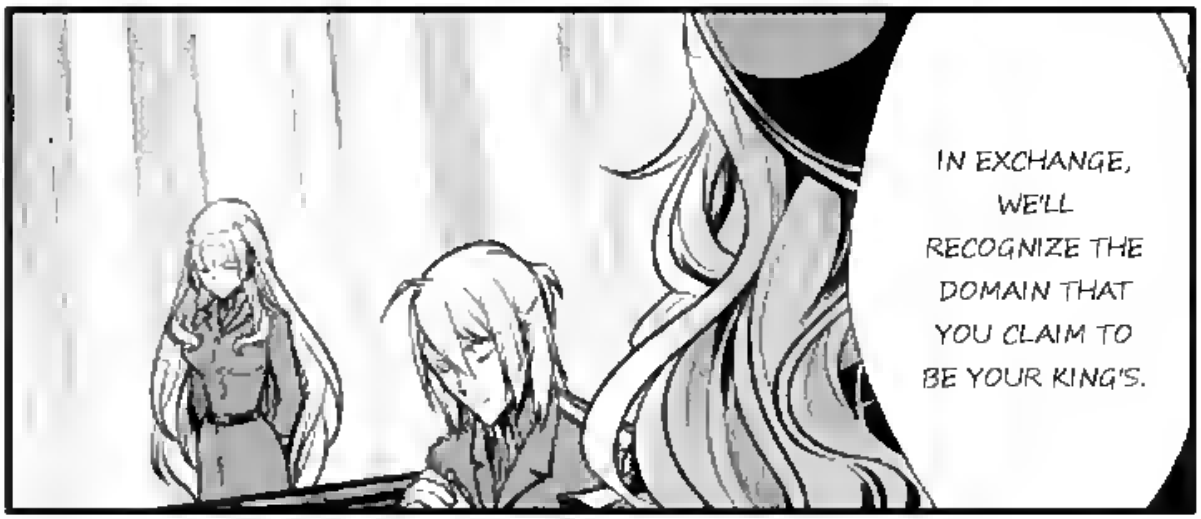
WE HAVE BUT ONE DESIRE,


FOR YOU TO SUBMIT TO THE GREAT ALMADA EMPIRE.


OH?
AND IF WE REFUSE?

WE WILL KILL EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU.


ACCEPT OUR DEMANDS AND RESPECT OUR RULER, SIR LECTIVAL,
TO BEGIN WITH, YOU'RE JUST OUTLAWS ILLEGALLY OCCUPYING A REGION OF OUR COUNTRY.


IN EXCHANGE, WE'LL RECOGNIZE THE DOMAIN THAT YOU CLAIM TO BE YOUR KING'S.

I KNEW IT...
THEY'VE
DEMANDED THAT
SINCE THEIR
FOUNDING,
IT'S NOT LIKE THEY
EVEN INTEND TO
RECOGNIZE
ANYTHING.

SO,

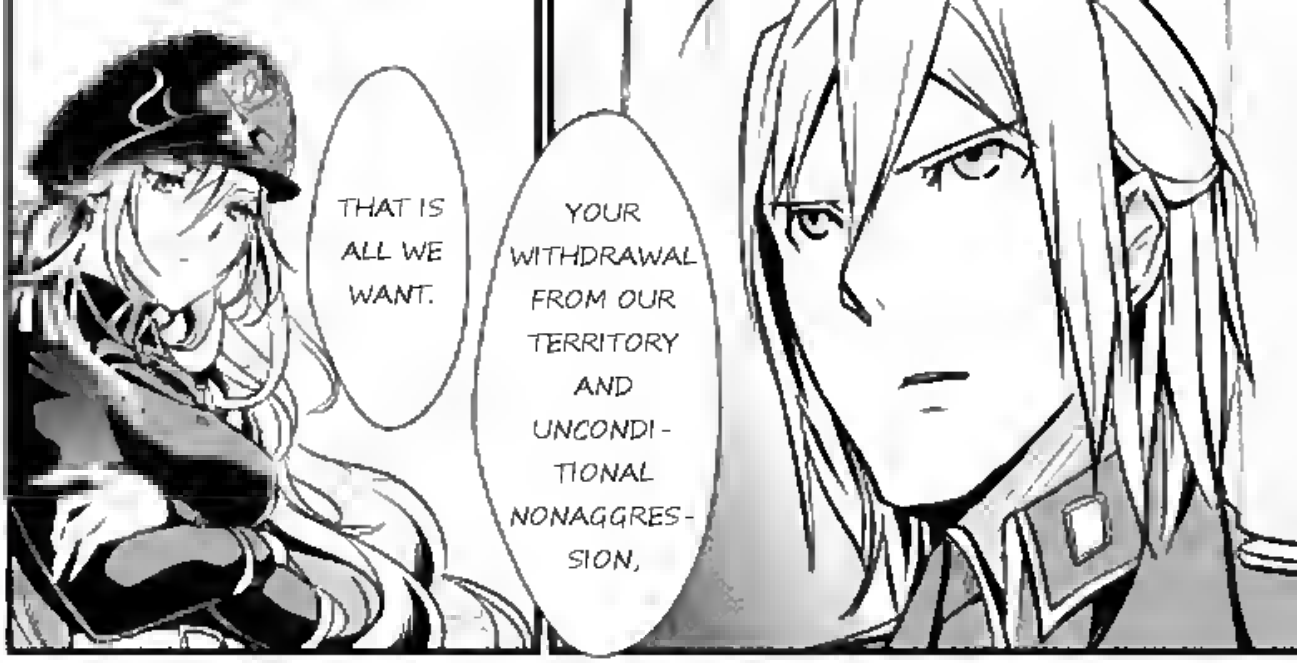
WHAT IS
YOUR
ANSWER?

THIS IS NOT A DREAM, PRINCESS GLORIE,

I BELIEVE THAT SLEEP-TALKING SHOULD BE LIMITED TO WHEN YOU SLEEP, OR IS THAT AN UNUSUAL BELIEF IN THE EMPIRE?

SLEEP-TALKING, IS IT? INDEED, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT IT IS!
PFFF...
OUR IMPERIAL FAMILY IS ORIGINALLY FROM SOME SMALL COUNTRY,

WE FOUNDED OUR EMPIRE 300 YEARS AGO AND YOUR KINGDOM WAS FOUNDED 2000 YEARS AGO,
I SUPPOSE YOU WOULDN'T RECOGNIZE US AS BEING ABOVE YOU.
WHAT ARE YOUR DEMANDS?
IN THAT CASE, MY RIVAL,


YOUR WITHDRAWAL FROM OUR TERRITORY AND UNCONDI-TIONAL NONAGGRES-SION,
THAT IS ALL WE WANT.

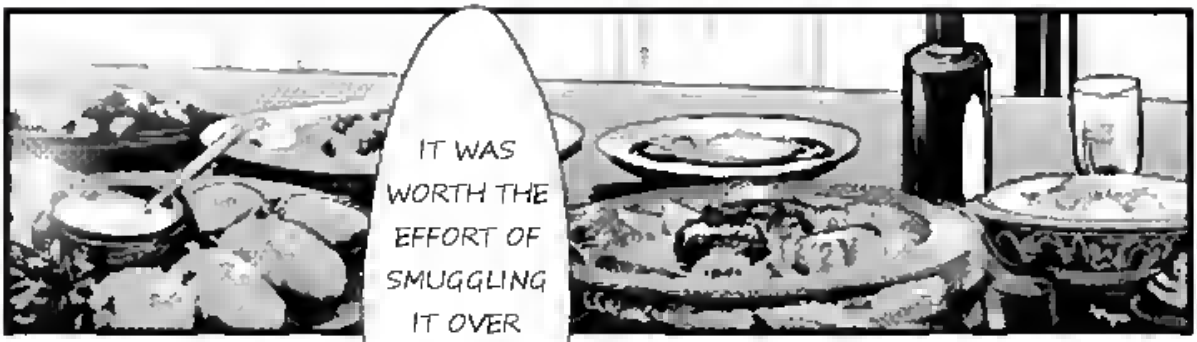
FOR HOW LONG DO YOU THINK OUR CORNERED ANCESTORS YEARNED FOR THE GREEN PLAINS AND BLUE SEAS IN THE SOUTH?
YOU CERTAINLY TAKE AFTER YOUR PREDECESSORS, WHO CHASED AWAY THEIR MASTERS TO THE NORTH, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT MUCH.

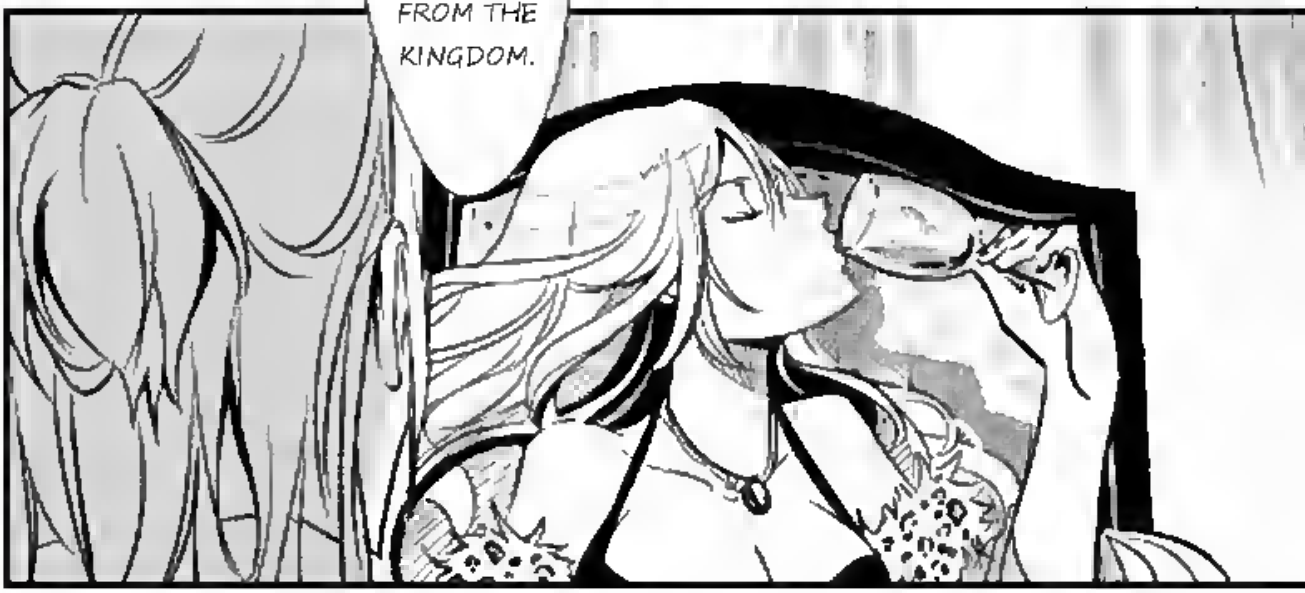
鍬が凍り THEY TILLED SOIL THAT WAS FROZEN SOLID, WHILE LONGING FOR THE SOIL THAT DIDN'T FREEZE. 耕したが
氷に閉ざされとわの港を THEY DESIRED HARBORS THAT DIDN'T FREEZE OVER, IMPRISONING THEM.
AND THERE (WAS) ALSO THE GREAT DISPARITY IN WEALTH WITHIN THE EMPIRE.

THE EMPIRE'S CURRENT WRETCHED STATE MAY BE PUNISHMENT FOR OUR ANCESTOR'S ACTIONS,
A MOTHER IN TEARS TAKING HER CHILD TO THE RIVER TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF MOUTHES IN THE HOUSE.
A CHILD'S BODY ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD FROZEN OVER.
THOUGH I DOUBT YOU'LL EVER UNDERSTAND HOW WE FEEL, JUST AS WE DON'T KNOW HOW YOU FELT WHEN YOU WERE HUMILIATED.
BUT THE EMPIRE'S PEOPLE HOLD A GREAT GRUDGE FOR HAVING THEIR HOME TOWNS PLUNDERED.
NOW THAT YOU KNOW HOW DIFFICULT IT IS FOR OUR PEOPLE TO NEGOTIATE, WILL YOU STILL CONTINUE TRYING?
EVEN NOW, YOUR COMPATRIOTS ARE BEING OPPRESSED IN THE EMPIRE, BUT I WON'T ASK THAT YOU FORGIVE US.

WELL THEN. AFTER WE AGREE TO THE TERMS OF THE ARMISTICE, WE'LL HAVE A BANQUET.
NO. AT THE VERY LEAST, AT THE MOMENT THERE'S NO MEANING TO FURTHER ATTEMPTS.
IN THE CONFERENCE, THEY AGREED TO RETURNING THE DEAD, THE EXCHANGE OF WAR PRISONERS, AND A 5 DAY TRUCE.
PRINCESS, THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE BANQUET ARE COMPLETED.
OH, GRANDMOTHER, HAVE YOU FOUND OUT WHO IT WAS?
YES,
THE COMPANY COMMANDER OF THE 8TH ARMY, BECAUSE OF HIS DESIRE FOR ACHIEVEMENTS, TEMPTED HIS MEN, WHAT SHALL WE DO?

GET RID OF HIM.
WHILE I LOVE FOOLISH SOLDIERS, I DON'T LIKE FOOLISH OFFICERS.
OH, A 90 YEAR OLD ONE FROM ALMERIALIS IS INDEED SPLENDID.
.....


IT WAS WORTH THE EFFORT OF SMUGGLING IT OVER FROM THE KINGDOM.



クリエ姫からの申し出で本当に宴を開くとは…
TO HAVE A BANQUET WITHOUT ANY GUARDS…

WHILE PRINCESS GLORIE DID INVITE ME,

EVEN FOR AN INSTANT, TO HAVE A YOUNG UNMARRIED PRINCESS ALONE WITH A MAN FROM AN ENEMY COUNTRY...
MMM, DELICIOUS!
WHAT'S WRONG? DO YOU NOT PLAN ON DRINKING? THERE ISN'T ANY POISON IN THE ALCOHOL.
AH, YOU MUST BE WORRIED ABOUT THE GLASS ITSELF.
HERE,
DRINK FROM WHERE I DRANK.

YOU SHOULD HAVE NO CAUSE FOR WORRY THEN.
.....
AH!
OH NO!
KISSES SHOULD BE EXCHANGED BETWEEN LOVERS ONLY!

UM, WELL
YOU SEE, TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SOCIETY, I DECIDED TO READ A LOVE STORY.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING SO SUDDENLY?
IT'S JUST A STORY.
THE STORY WAS ABOUT LOVERS WHO DRANK POISON FROM THE SAME GLASS, AND IT JUST CAME INTO MY HEAD.

.....
WE ARE ENEMIES WHO WILL TRY TO KILL EACH OTHER TOMORROW FOR THE SAKE OF OUR COUNTRIES.
TO BE HONEST, THE ONLY OTHER MAN LIKE YOU THAT I KNOW OF IS MY BROTHER.
SO YOU SAY WE CAN'T BE IN LOVE WITH EACH OTHER BECAUSE WE'RE ENEMIES?
YOU'RE THE FIRST SUCH MAN, WHICH IS HIGHLY INTEREST-ING!
NOT ONLY THAT, YOU'RE GOING TO SIMPLY TRY TO KILL ME, WITHOUT ANY HATRED OR GRUDGES DRIVING YOU.
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE THE GREATEST MAN I HAVE EVER MET.

IT'S MY FIRST TIME AGAINST A MAN LIKE YOU.
AND HAVEN'T YOU BEEN IN PLENTY OF FIGHTS TO THE DEATH?
MEN GREATER THAN ME ARE A DIME A DOZEN,
言光、SHOULD I BE HONORED?
I SHOULD HAVE MORE COOKED!
OH. THIS MEAT IS QUITE TASTY!
NOT ONLY THAT, I'VE EVEN BEFRIENDED YOU.
UM,
SHE'S SUCH A CHARMING WOMAN, YET SHE ACTS LIKE A CHILD.
I'LL TAKE IT!
YOU CAN HAVE MINE IF YOU WANT.

TROUBL-
ING?
HOW SO?
GRANDMO-
THER,
I HAD SO
MUCH FUN,
IT'S
TROUBLING.
WHEN I THINK
ABOUT IT,
I WANT TO HUNT
HIM MYSELF...
MY INSTINCTS,
MY VERY BEING
DESIRES HIM,
WHICH IS
TROUBLING.
THAT MAN WILL
LIKELY COME
FOR MY LIFE,
NOT BECAUSE
OF HATRED OR
A GRUDGE,
BUT BECAUSE
HE DESIRES IT.
THE
DRAGON
KING
WITH
STARRY
EYES.
GRANDMO-
THER,
I WILL
HUNT HIM,
I CAN
UNDERSTAND
YOUR
FEELINGS,
I TOO ONCE
MET A
TARGET
EQUAL TO ME.
THAT
ENCOUNTER
WAS
EXALTING.

ISN'T IT DELICIOUS?
THERE'S STILL PLENTY OF ALCOHOL LEFT.
I PREFER TO ENJOY A MEAL IN THE FIELD WITH THE SOLDIERS! I EVEN GET TO HEAR INTERESTING STORIES.
USUALLY GRAND-MOTHER IS WATCHING ME, SO I DON'T GET TO BE AT EASE LIKE THIS VERY OFTEN.
THAT'S ALL THERE IS.
IT ALLOWS ME TO GET WHAT I WANT, THEREFORE I KILL.
WHY DO I KILL?
彼女は自分の敵にはどこまでも無慈悲に残酷なのに守るべきものには無限の愛を注ぐ…
SHE IS CRUEL TO HER ENEMIES, WHILE POSSESSING INFINITE LOVE FOR THOSE SHE PROTECTS. THAT MUST BE THE REASON THE EMPIRE'S SOLDIERS CAN RISK THEIR LIVES.
帝国軍あの戦な…

YOUR HIGH-NESS,
HMM? WHAT IS IT?
WELL, PUTTING ASIDE THE COMPLICATED BITS,
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT "WAR BLOSSOM PRINCESS"?

A TIGER?
SHE'S LIKE A TIGER
A TIGER IS FEARSOME AND FEROCIOUS WHEN IT FIGHTS, BUT IS OTHERWISE RATHER CHARMING.
YOUR HIGHNESS, YOU SHOULD AVOID SAYING THAT IN THE MIDST OF OTHERS.
AS AN ENEMY, SHE'S A RATHER DREADFUL OPPONENT.
AH, ALSO,
RIGHT, SORRY.

SHE'S LIKE THE SUN.
PERHAPS I THOUGHT OF THAT BECAUSE YOU'RE LIKE THE MOON.
THE TIGER PRINCESS WITH HAIR LIKE THE SUN, HUH?
UH, IS THAT
もっ
A COMPLI-MENT?

BOTH OF THEM BELIEVED THAT THIS MEETING GREATLY INFLUENCED THEM, AND NEITHER WOULD EVER FORGET ABOUT THIS DAY.
AND 5 DAYS AFTER THE MEETING, RIGHT AS THE TRUCE EXPIRED, GLORIE FIRED THE FIRST SHELL INTO THE KINGDOM.